



March 1998

VOTING INFORMATION NEWS

Vol. 8 No. 3

A roundup of voting news from the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) ✓ ✓ For voters, potential voters and those who assist voters.

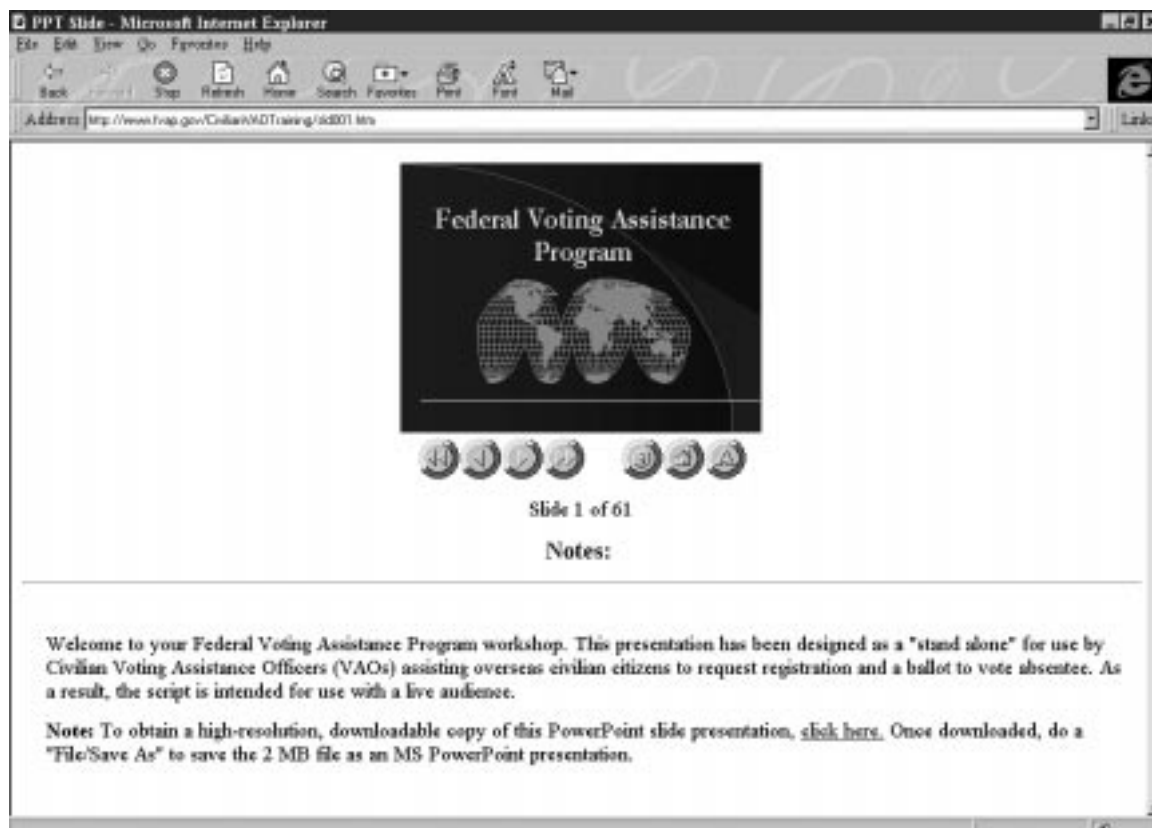
Slides available at www.fvap.gov

Voting Assistance Training Now on Web!

The Federal Voting Assistance Program's (FVAP's) on-line training for Voting Assistance Officers (VAOs) is now available on the World Wide Web at www.fvap.gov. VAOs are encouraged to visit the FVAP site to obtain the latest guidance and information for making 1998 another successful year for citizens voting under the *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act* (UOCAVA).

Under the link titled "Training for Voting Assistance Officers," visitors to the site will find two versions of the training program: one for use by VAOs in the Uniformed Services and another version for civilian VAOs at U.S. Embassies/Consulates, organizations of overseas civilian United States citizens and overseas corporations that employ U.S. citizens.

The slide show addresses item-by-item completion of the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) and provides an overview of the top ten resources available from the FVAP to assist VAOs in carrying out their programs. The presentation also



explains the DoD Voting Information Center and the Electronic Transmission Service for transmitting (faxing) of election materials. Contact information on the Service and Department of State Voting Action Officers is also provided.

Both the military and the civilian presentations are in *Microsoft PowerPoint* format. For site visitors without *PowerPoint*, a link allowing viewers to download a *PowerPoint* viewer is provided. The presentations are accompanied by "speaker's notes" (see above web page) which explain each slide and can be used by VAOs when assisting citizens or training other VAOs. You can also download the 2 megabyte presentation to a floppy disk or local hard-drive, allowing you to run the presentation directly from your computer and make

"hard copies" of the slides for printing to 35mm slides or overhead transparencies.

The presentation is an updated on-line version of the 1996 VAO training tape and details all pertinent issues covered during the FVAP's on-site workshops.

"This is a major step forward in addressing our customer's needs, on a real-time basis, through the application of on-line technology," stated FVAP Director Phyllis J. Taylor. Providing training to FVAP customers via the World Wide Web is also in keeping with Department of Defense policy encouraging the use of technology to address customer needs.

Questions or comments on the on-line training presentation can be addressed to the FVAP at vote@fvap.gov or using the contact information on page 2 of this newsletter.

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Importance of Primary Election Participation**Help Write the General Election Ballot!**

The 1998 state primary elections have begun and will end with the Louisiana primary on October 3 (see *Primary Calendar* on page 3). State primaries play a critical role in the electoral process. The names that appear on the ballot in the November 3, 1998 general election are the end result of the primary process. The winner of a primary is the candidate who garners the largest percentage (i.e., a *plurality*) of the vote, not necessarily the majority. As a result, the higher the turnout, the greater the likelihood that the winner will be representative of the population at large.

Primaries are held by political parties in each state for the purpose of nominating candidates for state and federal offices such as Governor, U.S. Senator, and member of the U.S. House of Representatives. Louisiana voters should be aware that if any candidate on the ballot receives more than fifty percent of the votes cast in the state's primary election (Oct. 3), that candidate is declared the winner and the office is not voted upon in the general election.

While Presidential primaries (next scheduled for the year 2000) select or indicate preference for *delegates* who may or may not be bound to vote for a particular Presidential candidate at the national convention, a state primaries determine the actual *candidates* who will appear on the ballot the day of the general election. Because of the historically smaller turnout in "off-year" state primaries relative to Presidential primaries, voters who participate in these primaries can have a greater impact on their outcome.

Voter participation is crucial in any election and primaries are no different. The offices up for election during state primaries vary from state-to-state, so be sure to consult the calendar on page 3 of this issue of the *VIN* for appropriate dates and offices in your state. Voting Assistance Officers (VAOs) in the Armed Forces, Embassies/Consulates, and overseas United States citizen organizations should ensure a supply of four (4) Federal Post Card Applications (FPCAs) per eligible citizen and eligible family members and an adequate quantity of 1998-99 *Voting Assistance Guides* in order to facilitate participation in this important aspect of our democratic process.

Voting Assistance Officers**"To Do" This Month**

[] Conduct a voting orientation for members of your organization to include the importance of voting in primary elections (see articles on page 1 and at left). Encourage participation by senior level military and State Department officials. Distribute the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) to all members of your organization (with enough for family members). Coordinate with local organizations and media so they can emphasize the importance of voting at their next meeting and in their next broadcast or issue. Visit **www.fvap.gov** for on-line materials and assistance.

[] Insure you have an adequate supply of Federal Write-In Absentee Ballots (FWABs) for CONUS and OCONUS personnel and all private overseas citizens. Be aware that some states have expanded use of the FWAB to primaries and non-general elections.

[] Be sure your installation or Embassy/Consulate telephone information operator has your name and telephone number for referrals.

[] If you have E-mail, please request to receive your copy of this newsletter electronically. Submit your request to **vote@fvap.gov**. Be sure to provide the current regular mail address where the newsletter is being sent.

Do YOU have Web and/or E-mail Access?**Voting Information News "Goes Electronic"**

In order to maximize the use of electronic documentation and information transfer, the Federal Voting Assistance Program is "going electronic" with all information and materials we currently make available. Our goal by the end of 1998 is to decrease the number of printed monthly Voting Information News (VIN) by one-half. The VIN is available by E-mail and on the FVAP's website at **www.fvap.gov**. Because of this, we need all VIN subscribers who have E-mail capabilities or access to the World Wide Web to send a message to the VIN Coordinator at **vote@fvap.gov** indicating the complete current mailing address from this copy of the VIN and your E-mail address to begin receiving the VIN electronically. As always, we encourage the forwarding of the VIN to others and the use of VIN articles in other publications reaching United States citizens wherever they may be. Please notify the VIN coordinator of any future changes to your E-mail address including subscription cancellations at **vote@fvap.gov**.

Federal Voting Assistance Program

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703-693-6500
(800) 438-8683 DSN 223-6500
DSN 225-0663 Toll-free Numbers (pg. 4)

Fax:

703-693-5507
DSN 223-5507



Note: Copying or using *VIN* articles in other publications, etc. is encouraged.

1998 State Primary Election Calendar

State	State Primary Date	State Runoff Primary (if necessary)	Offices to be nominated for the General Election		
			FEDERAL		STATE
			U.S. Senator	U.S. Representative	Governor
Alabama	June 2	June 30	Yes	7	Yes
Alaska	August 25	—	Yes	1	Yes
American Samoa	—	—	—	—	—
Arizona	September 8	—	Yes	6	Yes
Arkansas	May 19	June 9	Yes	4	Yes
California	June 2	—	Yes	52	Yes
Colorado	August 11	—	Yes	6	Yes
Connecticut	September 15	—	Yes	6	Yes
Delaware	September 12	—	—	1	—
District of Columbia	September 15	—	—	1 Delegate	(Mayor)
Florida	September 1	October 1	Yes	23	Yes
Georgia	July 21	August 11	Yes	11	Yes
Guam	September 5	—	—	1	Yes
Hawaii	September 19	—	Yes	2	Yes
Idaho	May 26	—	Yes	2	Yes
Illinois	March 17	—	Yes	20	Yes
Indiana	May 5	—	Yes	10	—
Iowa	June 2	—	Yes	5	Yes
Kansas	August 4	—	Yes	4	Yes
Kentucky	May 26	—	Yes	6	—
Louisiana	October 3	—	Yes	7	—
Maine	June 9	—	—	2	Yes
Maryland	September 15	—	Yes	8	Yes
Massachusetts	September 15	—	—	10	Yes
Michigan	August 4	—	—	16	Yes
Minnesota	September 15	—	—	8	Yes
Mississippi	June 2	June 23	—	5	—
Missouri	August 4	—	Yes	9	—
Montana	June 2	—	—	1	—
Nebraska	May 12	—	—	3	Yes
Nevada	September 1	—	Yes	2	Yes
New Hampshire	September 8	—	Yes	2	Yes
New Jersey	June 2	—	Yes	13	—
New Mexico	June 2	—	—	3	Yes
New York	September 15	—	Yes	31	Yes
North Carolina	May 5	June 2	Yes	12	—
North Dakota	June 9	—	Yes	1	—
Ohio	May 5	—	Yes	19	Yes
Oklahoma	August 25	September 15	Yes	6	Yes
Oregon	May 19	—	Yes	5	Yes
Pennsylvania	May 19	—	Yes	21	Yes
Puerto Rico	—	—	—	—	—
Rhode Island	September 15	—	—	2	Yes
South Carolina	June 9	June 23	Yes	6	Yes
South Dakota	June 2	June 16	Yes	1	Yes
Tennessee	August 6	—	—	9	Yes
Texas	March 10	April 14	—	30	Yes
Utah	June 23	—	Yes	3	Yes
Vermont	September 8	—	Yes	1	Yes
Virgin Islands	September 8	—	—	1	Yes
Virginia	June 9	—	—	11	—
Washington	September 15	—	Yes	9	—
West Virginia	May 12	—	—	3	—
Wisconsin	September 8	—	Yes	9	Yes
Wyoming	August 18	—	—	1	Yes

State Department: Office of American Citizens ServicesVoting Action Officer: Mr. Patrick Hegerty **tel:** (202) 647-6060 **tel FTS:** 8-647-4994, **fax:** (202) 647-6201**Service Voting Action Officers**Dept. of the Army: Mr. Tom Feazell **tel:** (703) 325-4530 **tel DSN:** 221-4530, **fax:** (703) 325-4532, **fax DSN:** 221-4532
E-mail: feazellt@hoffman-emh1.army.milDept. of the Navy: Mr. Ed Roscoe **tel:** (703) 614-3248, **tel DSN:** 224-3248, **fax:** (703) 693-6471, **fax DSN:** 223-6471
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Internet: jacksonj@hq1.usmc.mil **E-mail:** jackson@mhp@hqmc **ELMS:** [GMHPO3:HQIHQMC]U.S. Coast Guard: LCDR Reggie Sealey **tel:** (202) 267-2239, **fax:** (202) 267-4823
E-mail: rsealy@comdt.uscg.milAll of the above can also be reached through the DoD Voting Information Center and the FVAP WEB Site <http://www.fvap.gov>

Please share this copy of VIN with others.

Query via Internet, phone, fax or mail!

FVAP Ombudsman Service

The Federal Voting Assistance Program's Ombudsman Service is there to help you when voting concerns cannot be solved locally. You can contact the FVAP staff for service by e-mail at vote@fvap.gov; on the Web at www.fvap.gov; by phone using the toll-free numbers below; by fax at (703) 693-5507 or DSN 223-5507; or by regular mail at the address listed on page 2.

The toll-free numbers below will take you directly into the DoD Voting Information Center, with the option of transferring to the FVAP office for assistance from our Ombudsman Service. The office is staffed during normal business hours on Eastern Standard Time. An answering machine is available during the evening hours. When leaving a message from overseas please be sure to leave your entire phone number including any international prefixes required so that we are able to respond to your voting question in a timely manner.



In the U.S. 1-800-438-8683
 Antigua 1-800-326-0220
 Australia 0014-800-128509
 Bahamas 180-995-09-20
 Bahrain 800-621
 Barbados 800-534-2104
 Belgium 0800-11-455
 Bermuda 800-623-0077
 Brazil 000-811-926-5585
 Canada 800-995-0920
 Chile 00-020-3071
 Colombia 980-12-0896
 Costa Rica 0-800-011-0125
 Denmark 800-10-169
 Dominican Rep. 800-751-7131
 Finland 9800-156-284
 France 0-800-900-156
 Germany 013-081-9277
 Greece 008-001-22-586
 Hong Kong 800-6984
 Hungary 00-800-11-158
 Ireland 1-800-557-083
 Israel 177-102-4012
 Italy 1-678-72-444
 Indonesia 00-800-1-923-3685

Japan 0031-11-2429
 Liechtenstein 1-155-4514
 Luxembourg 0-800-2499
 Malaysia 800-2170
 Mexico 95-800-010-1438
 Monaco 0-59-00-156
 Netherlands 06-022-2499
 Neth. Antilles 001-800-753-0767
 New Zealand 0-800-44-0799
 Norway 800-12093
 Panama 0083-28027-4197
 Philippines 1-800-116-0009
 Portugal 0501-8-13-035
 San Marino 1-678-72-444
 Singapore 800-1300-210
 South Korea 0078-14-800-0203
 Spain 900-93-1108
 Sweden 020-793-503
 Switzerland 155-4514
 Taiwan 0080-10-3153
 Thailand 001-800-1-1-923-6685
 Trinidad & Tobago 1-800-934-7340
 United Kingdom 0-800-895-7403
 Uruguay 000-411-923-7985
 Vatican City 1678-72-4444

Call the DoD VIC Toll-free from Overseas!

Now you can stay in touch with public officials, candidates and issues in your home state toll-free from 49 overseas locations.

Contact the offices of U.S. Senators, U.S. Representative, Governors and State Chief Election Officials *at no cost to you* by using the numbers provided on this page.

Voting Assistance Officers can also contact the Voting Action Officer in the Department of State and the Uniformed Services on these numbers.

You may also call the VIC on regular Commercial (703) 693 - 6500 or DSN on 223 - 6500.

*Be Sure To Mail
Your FPCA At
Least 60 Days
Prior To Your
State's Election.
See Calendar on
page 3!*

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